

TO The Chairman and Members of the WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1900 for the Eastern division of the Williton Union.

The tables of mortality &c are more extended than formerly and contain the statistics of previous years for the purposes of comparison.

The division into the three registration districts has been adopted ; but the Williton district is not the same as the registration district of the Registrar General's report, for the parishes of Old Cleeve & Treborough are in the Western division of the Union.

I have been able to give complete returns for the last 5 years only, for which period I have the monthly death returns.

ACREAGE :- 36,966 acres.

POPULATION :- 7450, estimated to middle of 1900, a diminution of 876 (not including Withiel Florey) since 1891

GEOLOGY :- In the western part are limestones & slates similar to those of Exmoor, and comparatively soft water is abundant. In the central portion, sandstone and marl predominate and water is much more scarce except close to the Quantocks & in the valleys where there are beds of water-carrying gravel. In the eastern portion are lias, marl & clay and a considerable portion is supplied by springs of good water from the Quantocks ; shallow wells are common elsewhere & there is considerable difficulty in getting water free from liability to pollution.

OCCUPATION :- Mainly agricultural - paper mills at Watchet, at which place the recent injury done to the harbour will have very serious effects.

BIRTH RATE :- 22.28 per 1000 of population.

DEATH RATE :- 18.79 ,, ,, ,, ,,

ZYMOTIC RATE :- .8 ,, ,, ,, ,,

INFANT MORTALITY :- 162.65 per 1000 births

Two fifths of the total number of deaths have occurred after the age of 65.

The Infant mortality rate for the last 2 years has been considerably over the average - diseases of the respiratory organs causing

8 deaths, of the digestive organs 4, tubercular disease 2, whooping cough 1, premature birth & weakness from birth 7, other diseases 4 & accident 1.

During the year I have visited & made inspections in all the parishes of the district.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION :- There is very little over crowding ; Watchet the only part which has considerably increased in population, has many good new houses.

In other parts of St Decumans parish more wholesome dwellings for the labouring class are much needed.

In the less populous parts, the decay of houses has gone on along with diminishing population.

Byelaws respecting new buildings have been prepared & will shortly be in operation.

WATER SUPPLY :- Watchet, with the exception of a few houses, is supplied by a private company from a source near the Brendon Hills. The supply has been sufficient for the requirements of the place except in dry seasons, and the quality of the water is good.

Stogumber has a good public supply and polluted wells have been closed.

Holford is supplied from a spring on the Quantocks and the new supply from a similar source for Kilve and Kilton is completed.

The plans for the proposed supply for Williton are now being prepared for submission to the Local Government Board & have been

promised within a month.

SEWERAGE.:- The reconstruction of the sewerage of Williton has been decided on, but the water supply has taken the first place & the final plans have not yet been submitted.

The Watchet scheme of reconstruction has unfortunately been delayed owing to the destruction of the harbour & it will hardly be possible to arrange for an outfall until the question of the harbour works has been settled.

During the year some objectionable cesspits have been abolished & waterclosets substituted but there are a few cesspits remaining which should be dealt with and there is no reason why the present defective condition of Govier's Lane with the drainage of Wristland and Gladstone Terraces should wait for the general reconstruction. I should suggest that these parts receive immediate attention.

In consideration of the great importance of good sanitary arrangements in connection with public schools, I have appended a special report on the schools of the district, and I would take this opportunity of pointing out that school premises, badly kept, are liable to be a very serious source of disease, but if well constructed and well kept, afford a most valuable object lesson to the scholars. Only ten out of the sixteen schools could be considered satisfactory in this respect.

SCAVENGING :- As I reported last year, some public provision for the removal of refuse in Watchet, would be very beneficial. The application of the byelaws requiring cottagers to remove refuse at frequent intervals will be almost impossible where houses are unprovided with sufficient garden ground ; and it is in ~~fact~~ just such cases that the accumulations are most liable to become a source of public danger.

I hope the Council will reconsider the matter.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, BAKEHOUSES & WORKSHOPS have been inspected.

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS :- Registration of milk sellers should be en-

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forced. Byelaws with respect to these matters will shortly be in operation.

I believe that no milk is sent out of the district except from Durboro' Farm, Stogursey, which supplies Stowey in the Bridgwater District.

Cows are ~~must~~not confined to sheds, but are in the open in all but the most severe weather. The chief defect is that in most cases the rough sheds are not sufficiently clean to be suitable milking places.

I append a list of nine dairies inspected, of which five were on the whole satisfactory and four were not.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE :- Eight cases have been notified during the year:- Two isolated cases of scarlet fever, one of diphtheria, and four of erysipelas.

A mild case of typhus fever was reported near Stogursey, but there were no circumstances to explain its occurrence.

Disinfection by means of sulphur and formalin fumigation has been practised.

The construction of an isolation hospital is still under consideration. I think that the requirements of this district will best be met by means of a comparatively small hospital, in or near St Decumans parish.

BYELAWS on various matters have been approved by the Local Government Board & will soon be in operation.

THE report of the Inspector of Nuisances is appended. It includes

205 inspections of houses,

26 orders issued for sanitary amendments,

36 drains repaired or ventilated,

25 closets provided or repaired,

15 offensive accumulations removed,

11 samples of water reported dangerous by County Analyst,

4 legal proceedings,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CR Kidick M.D.

R E P O R T on the Schools of the District.

- (1) St Audries, (2) Dytche, (3) Kilton, (4) Elworthy.

These Schools are provided with pail closets which were found on inspection to be clean & in good condition.

- (5) Williton. Ashpit closets, clean and well kept, but of a construction which necessitates considerable expense in clearing out. Urinal flushed by tap from rain water cistern.

Substitution of water closets when the new sewerage is effected would probably prove an economy.

- (6) Watchet National School. Has waterclosets with flushing apparatus. The closets were very badly kept & were not sufficient in number ; no proper provision for infants.

There was an open ashpit with great accumulation of house - refuse open to the playground.

- (7) Watchet Undenominational School. Hand flushed waterclosets, most of which were clean ; no proper provision for infants. There was an open ashpit, overfull, next to the urinal, in a most unsuitable position.

- (8) Monksilver, (9) Bicknoller, (10) Crowcombe.

Closets over a mason's drain, flushed from small streams.

- (11) Stogumber. Closet seats over a large pipe which is very imperfectly flushed from an automatic tank, quite inadequate for the purpose.

- (12) Yarde. The closets, clean & free from any offence, are immediately over a small branch of the stream.

- (13) Sampford Brett. (14) East Quantoxhead.

Small cesspits without flushing arrangements.

At Sampford Brett, pipes to ventilate the pits have been added, but the system is not satisfactory.

- (15) Stogursey. Has somewhat similar closets on a larger scale,

(1) St Audries, (2) Dyche, (3) Kilton, (4) Elworthy.

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District		Condition of Cow-sheds	Dairy	Water Supply	Washing place	Privy accommodation	Remarks
Watchet	1	Open sheds, fairly well kept	In the house - clean	Public supply	In house	Water closet	Satisfactory
,,	2	Small half-open sheds, bad floors & bad drainage	In the house - clean	Public supply & from well	In house	Water closet	Not satisfactory
Williton	1	Good closed shed, very dirty & with heap of manure against outside wall under window	In the house - fairly clean	Suspicious - well; and cows drink from - sewage polluted well <i>river</i>	In house	Closet by river	Not satisfactory
,,	2	Open sheds, well kept	In the house - clean	Well - good water	In house	Cesspit away - from house and well	Satisfactory
,,	3	Closed sheds, bad - floors & badly drained <i>rather extended</i>	In the house - clean	Well - no evidence of pollution	In yard	Hand flushed - closet in bad condition	Not satisfactory
,,	4	Rough shed with bad drain	In the house - clean	Well - no evidence of pollution	In house	Water closet	Satisfactory
Wilver	1	Open sheds, well - kept	In the house - clean	Spring and public supply	In yard	Water closet	Satisfactory
Stogursey	1	Well constructed closed sheds - fairly well kept	In the house - clean	Well - no - evidence of pollution	In house	Dry closet, bad kept, out away from dairy	Satisfactory
,,	2	Open sheds in - badly drained - court - with a collection of - foul water, cows do not drink here	In the house - clean	Well, no evidence of - pollution	In house	Cesspit away - from well	Not satisfactory

Table I

Population 1900	7450
Births	166
Rate	22.28
Deaths under 1 year	27
Rate	162.65
Deaths at all ages	140
Rate	18.79
Deaths in public institutions	8
" non residents	3
Deaths all ages net	137
Rate	18.39

Table II

	Whole division	Wilton	Stogumber	Stogursey
Population	7450	3349	2291	1810
Births Registered	166	87	46	33
Deaths at all ages	137	70	39	28
Deaths under 1 year	27	16	8	3

Table III

	at all ages	5 to 15	25 to 65	Wilton	Stogumber	Stogursey
Diphtheria	1	1	.	.	1	.
Erysipelas	4	.	4	3	1	.
Scarlet fever	2	2	.	.	.	2
Dysentery	1	1	.	.	.	1

no fever hospital

Table IV

measles 2
 Whooping Cough 2
 Diphtheria 1
 Influenza 6
 Diarrhoea 1
 Enteritis 1
 Erysipelas 1
 Other septic diseases 1

Phthisis 3
 Other tubercular diseases 4
 Cancer, malignant dis 12
 Bronchitis 12
 Pneumonia 5
 Alcoholism 2
 Premature birth & manition from birth 7
 Heart diseases 19
 Accidents 5
 { Cerebral Haemorrhage 14
 { Senile decay 13
 all other causes 27

